

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). By this Response, independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 22 are amended and dependent claims 2, 9, 16 and 23 have been included in the respective independent claims. Accordingly, claims 2, 9, 16 and 23 have been cancelled. Moreover, claims 3, 10, 17 and 24 have also been amended to correct their dependencies given the cancellation of claims 2, 9, 16 and 23. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-22 and 24-26 will remain pending. The specification was objected to due to certain informalities. The specification has been amended to overcome the informality mentioned in the Office Action. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in light of the amendments and the following remarks are requested.

Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to because of certain informalities in page 1, line 8. The objectionable passage has been corrected. No new matter has been added. The amendment is believed to obviate the objections raised by the Examiner.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rollins, III, U.S. Patent No. 6,606,848. Anticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration. Applicants respectfully assert that the present invention, as claimed in amended independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 22 is patentable over the Rollins, III reference.

Independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 22 are amended to more clearly define certain of the claimed subject matter. Specifically, each independent claim now recites, in generally similar language, *acquiring a plurality of alternative target operation variables for said power generation unit, and calculating operational efficiency of said power generation*

unit based upon said plurality of current condition variables, said plurality of alternative target operation variables and said plurality of design constants.

By the present Response, recitations of claims 2, 9, 16 and 23 are incorporated into claims 1, 8, 15 and 22, respectively. The Rollins, III reference discloses the variables and constants but does not describe the plurality of operational variables to calculate the operational efficiency of the power generation unit based upon the variables and constants, as now recited in the independent claims.

FIG. 6 and corresponding text at page 11, line 18 to line 23 of the present application, explain the “what if” construction process 100 which allows the user to include data variables of different target conditions for comparison with the base conditions, and thereby calculate the operational efficiency of the power generation unit. Such calculation is illustrated in FIG. 2 and FIG. 3 of the application, and discussed in the corresponding passages of the specification.

Therefore, the present invention, as claimed in amended independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 22 is not anticipated by the Rollins, III reference. Claims 3, 10, 17 and 24 originally depended from claims 2, 9, 16 and 23, respectively, and are now amended to depend from the independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 22, respectively. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/7/2004

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